

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 01410 111203Z

51

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 NIC-01 DRC-01 /129 W

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R 111104Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1791

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USINT DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 1410

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, EG, UR

SUBJ: SOVIET-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS

1. MFA MIDDLE EAST DIRECTOR VERED HAS TOLD US SHE BELIEVES SOVIETS ARE SERIOUSLY WORRIED ABOUT THEIR LOSS OF INFLUENCE IN EGYPT. MAJOR STRESS ON USSR-EGYPTIAN TREATY IN COMMUNIQUE AT CONCLUSION GROMYKO'S CAIRO VISIT WAS INDICATIVE OF SOVIET CONCERN OVER EGYPTIAN DISREGARD OF TREATY IN PRACTICE. FACT THAT GROMYKO IN EGYPT WAS GUEST ONLY OF FOREIGN MINISTER, WHEREAS IN SYRIA HE WAS GUEST OF BOTH GOVERNMENT AND PARTY, POINTED TO MOST TROUBLESOME ASPECT OF SITUATION FROM SOVIET VIEWPOINT: EGYPT'S IDEOLOGICAL DRIFT TO THE RIGHT.

2. MRS. VERED SAID SOVIETS WERE OF COURSE BOTHERED BY BUDDING US-EGYPTIAN RELATIONSHIP. BUT SHE THOUGHT THEY
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PAGE 02 TEL AV 01410 111203Z

WERE BOTHERED EVEN MORE BY SERIES OF RECENT MOVES BY OGE

TO DO AWAY WITH ITS SOCIALIST ORIENTATION. DE-NASSERIZATION UNDERWAY IN EGYPT WAS SYMPTOMATIC OF LATER. MOST EXTREME EXAMPLE SO FAR OF ANTI-NASSER MOVEMENT WAS ESSAY WRITTEN BY TOFIK EL-HAKIM, PRESIDENT OF EGYPTIAN WRITERS ASSOCIATION, WHICH APPEARED IN TWO INSTALLMENTS IN EL-HAYYAT OF BEIRUT IN FEBRUARY (IT HAD EARLIER APPEARED IN DECEMBER 1973 ISSUE OF LEFTIST PARIS MONTHLY L'ESPRIT).

3. REASON ACCORDING TO MRS VERED WHY EGYPTIAN IDEOLOGICAL SHIFT WORRIED SOVIETS EVEN MORE THAN IMPROVED EGYPTIAN RELATIONSHIP WITH US WAS THAT LATTER WAS LARGELY FUNCTION OF MAJOR POWER MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT EFFORTS, WHERE SOVIETS HAD SOME ULTIMATE CONTROLS. ENDURING EGYPTIAN SHIFT AWAY FROM SOCIALIST PATTERNS, ON OTHER HAND, COULD RAISE VARIETY OF PROBLEMS FOR MOSCOW IN TERMS OF ITS THIRD WORLD AMBITIONS AND ALSO SOVIET DOMESTIC POLITICS.
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